

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Slat for a laser beam-cutting machine table, comprising a trough which contains a plurality of juxtaposed inserts arranged parallel or substantially parallel to one another, wherein each insert takes the form of a folded thin sheet-metal plate comprising at least two parts connected along a fold line, a first part arranged substantially parallel to the direction of incidence of the laser beam and constituting a support strip whose free upper edge forms a support element for the product to be cut, wherein said free upper edge is distinct from the fold line of said sheet-metal plate, and a second part which is inclined with respect to the direction of incidence of the laser beam and constitutes an oblique strip for deflecting the laser beam.
2. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 1, wherein each insert additionally comprises a third part, which is substantially parallel to the first part and forms a heel connected to the oblique strip along another fold line.
3. (Currently Amended) Slat according to Claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ a distance  $e$  separating the plane of the support strip and the plane of the heel is greater than or equal to ~~the~~ a distance  $d$  between two juxtaposed inserts.
4. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 1, wherein the inserts are fastened to the support trough via means which allow them to be disassembled.
5. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 4, wherein the slat comprises a trough having in particular two lateral walls whose upper ends are folded inwards, each forming an oblique fold provided with a plurality of openings or slots distributed over the whole length of the said folds, which openings ensure that the inserts are distributed and accommodate lugs formed on each side edge of the said inserts, the assembly of the lugs in the corresponding openings taking place elastically and by clipping.
6. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 1, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and

consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) Laser-cutting machine table, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats each comprising a trough which contains a plurality of juxtaposed inserts arranged parallel or substantially parallel to one another, wherein each insert takes the form of a folded thin sheet-metal plate comprising at least two parts connected along a fold line, a first part arranged substantially parallel to the direction of incidence of the laser beam and constituting a support strip whose free upper edge forms a support element for the product to be cut, and a second part which is inclined with respect to the direction of incidence of the laser beam and constitutes an oblique strip for deflecting the laser beam.

9. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 2, wherein the inserts are fastened to the support trough via means which allow them to be disassembled.

10. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 3, wherein the inserts are fastened to the support trough via means which allow them to be disassembled.

11. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 2, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

12. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 3, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

13. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 4, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and

consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

14. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 5, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) Laser-cutting machine table according to Claim 8, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats, wherein each insert additionally comprises a third part, which is substantially parallel to the first part and forms a heel connected to the oblique strip along another fold line.

24. (Currently Amended) Laser-cutting machine table according to Claim 23, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats, wherein the a distance e separating the plane of the support strip and the plane of the heel is greater than or equal to ~~the~~ a distance d between two juxtaposed inserts.

25. (Previously Presented) Laser-cutting machine table according to Claim 24, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats, wherein the inserts are fastened to the support trough via means which allow them to be disassembled.

26. (Previously Presented) Laser-cutting machine table according to Claim 25, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats, wherein the slat comprises a trough having in particular two lateral

walls whose upper ends are folded inwards, each forming an oblique fold provided with a plurality of openings or slots distributed over the whole length of the said folds, which openings ensure that the inserts are distributed and accommodate lugs formed on each side edge of the said inserts, the assembly of the lugs in the corresponding openings taking place elastically and by clipping.

27. (Previously Presented) Laser-cutting machine table according to Claim 26, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed slats, wherein the insert has a material void over a maximum area compatible with maintaining the rigidity of the said insert, which void makes it possible on the one hand to significantly reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve better heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.